UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/554,898	10/28/2005	Chad Andrew Lefevre	PU030136	9438

24498 7590 04/20/2007

JOSEPH J. LAKS, VICE PRESIDENT
THOMSON LICENSING LLC
PATENT OPERATIONS
PO BOX 5312
PRINCETON, NJ 08543-5312

EXAMINER	
AUVE, GLENN ALLEN	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2111	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/20/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/554,898	LEFEVRE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Glenn A. Auve	2111	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-18* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-18* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *10/18/2005*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the IEEE 1394a-2000 standard (IEEE1394).

The claims are presented in three groups that are basically the same. Claims 1-6 recite a method, claims 7-12 recite an apparatus that comprises "means for" implementing the method steps of claims 1-6, and claims 13-18 recite a "television signal receiver" comprising elements that are generally the same as those in the other claims. The first two groups of claims are treated together and the third group is treated on its own since it is somewhat different.

As per claims 1 and 7, IEEE1394 shows a method/apparatus for controlling an external device, comprising: detecting initiation of one of a disconnection from said external device and a connection to said external device (at least in section 4.4.4 and the accompanying state diagram that shows connection/disconnection of nodes to ports); providing a first command signal to interrupt operation of said external device via a data bus if said initiation of said disconnection from said external device is detected (section 4.4.4 - transition to the disconnected state P0 from state P5 or P6); and providing a second command signal to resume the operation of said external device via said data bus if said initiation of said connection to said external device is detected (section 4.4.4 - transition from disconnected stat P0 to resuming state P1). IEEE1394 shows all of the steps/elements recited in claims 1 and 7.

As for claims 2 and 8, the arguments for claim 1 and 7 apply. IEEE1394 also shows detecting an interruption of power; detecting a restoration of said power; determining whether said external device is selected as an initial input responsive to said restoration of said power; and providing said second command signal to said external device via said data bus if said external device is selected as said initial input (when power is lost the system transitions from the active state P2 to the suspend states P3 and P4 and when power is restored the state is transitioned from suspended P5 to resuming P1). IEEE1394 shows all of the steps/elements recited in claims 2 and 8.

As for claims 3 and 9, the arguments for claim 2 and 8 apply. IEEE1394 also shows that said data bus includes an IEEE-1394 bus (inherent). IEEE1394 shows all of the steps/elements recited in claims 3 and 9.

As for claims 4 and 10, the arguments for claim 2 and 8 apply. IEEE1394 also shows that said first command signal and said second command signal are AV/C protocol signals (the AV/C protocol signals are IEEE1394 signals as evidenced by Nakamura, U.S. Pat. No. 7,149,785 B1 col.1, lines 15-23). IEEE1394 shows all of the steps/elements recited in claims 4 and 10.

As for claims 5 and 11, the arguments for claim 1 and 7 apply. IEEE1394 also shows that said disconnection from said external device is detected responsive to a first user input; and said connection to said external device is detected responsive to a second user input (wherein the user inputs can be construed as physically disconnecting and reconnecting the devices). IEEE1394 shows all of the steps/elements recited in claims 5 and 11.

As for claims 6 and 12, the arguments for claim 1 and 7 apply. IEEE1394 also shows that said external device is a digital recording/reproduction device (such a device is a typical

IEEE 1394 device as evidenced by Nakamura, element 3 "DVCR"). IEEE1394 shows all of the steps/elements recited in claims 6 and 12.

As per claim 13, IEEE1394 shows a television signal receiver (such devices are widely used IEEE1394 device as evidenced by Nakamura's IRD (2)), comprising: an input/output terminal operative to connect said television signal receiver to an external device via a data bus (inherent in IEEE1394 devices which must contain an I/O terminal connector to couple to the network of devices); a processor operative to detect initiation of one of a disconnection from said external device and a connection to said external device (section 4.4.4); and wherein said input/output terminal outputs a first command signal to interrupt operation of said external device via said data bus if said processor detects said initiation of said disconnection from said external device (at least in section 4.4.4 and the accompanying state diagram that shows connection/disconnection of nodes to ports), and outputs a second command signal to resume the operation of said external device via said data bus if said processor detects said initiation of said connection to said external device (section 4.4.4 - transition from disconnected stat P0 to resuming state P1). IEEE1394 shows all of the elements recited in claim 13.

As for claim 14, the arguments for claim 13 applies. IEEE1394 also shows detecting an interruption of power; detecting a restoration of said power; determining whether said external device is selected as an initial input responsive to said restoration of said power; and providing said second command signal to said external device via said data bus if said external device is selected as said initial input (when power is lost the system transitions from the active state P2 to the suspend states P3 and P4 and when power is restored the state is transitioned from suspended P5 to resuming P1). IEEE1394 shows all of the elements recited in claim 14.

As for claim 15, the arguments for claim 14 applies. IEEE1394 also shows that said data bus includes an IEEE-1394 bus (inherent). IEEE1394 shows all of the elements recited in claim 15.

As for claim 16, the arguments for claim 14 applies. IEEE1394 also shows that said first command signal and said second command signal are AV/C protocol signals (the AV/C protocol signals are IEEE1394 signals as evidenced by Nakamura, U.S. Pat. No. 7,149,785 B1 col.1, lines 15-23). IEEE1394 shows all of the elements recited in claim 16.

As for claim 17, the arguments for claim 13 applies. IEEE1394 also shows that said disconnection from said external device is detected responsive to a first user input; and said connection to said external device is detected responsive to a second user input (wherein the user inputs can be construed as physically disconnecting and reconnecting the devices). IEEE1394 shows all of the elements recited in claim 17.

As for claim 18, the arguments for claim 13 applies. IEEE1394 also shows that said external device is a digital recording/reproduction device (such a device is a typical IEEE 1394 device as evidenced by Nakamura, element 3 "DVCR"). IEEE1394 shows all of the elements recited in claim 18.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The other cited references show connection of IEEE 1394 devices and how such systems operate.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Glenn A. Auve whose telephone number is (571) 272-3623. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 AM-5:30 PM, every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on (571) 272-3632. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Glenn A. Auve
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2111

gaa
18 April 2007